PRESENT:—*cont.*

Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B.
Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
Raja of Bobbili, The
Raja of Kallikote, The
Ramalingam Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur T. A.
Ramamurti, Pandit Ganala.
Raman Menon, Mr. K. P.
Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. M. D. T.
Rangaswami Reddi, Mr. M. B.
Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. S.
Sahajanandam, Swami A. S.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Satyanarayana Choudari, Mr. C.
Sesha Reddi, Mr. B. P.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Simhachalam, Mr. G.
Singam Ayyangar, Mr. K.
Siva Raj, Rao Sahib N.
Slater, C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. S. H.
Smith, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. E. C.
Sreshta, Mr. M. S.
Srinivasan, Rao Bahadur R.
Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Stanes, Mr. F. J.
Subbarayan, Dr. P.
Subrahmanya Chetti, Rao Sahib P.
Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
Thomas, Mr. Daniel.
Thorne, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. J. A.
Vedachala Mudaliyar, Mr. M.
Venkatachala Reddiyar, Mr. K. C. M. (Zamindar of Minampalli).
Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.
Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
Zamindar of Chemudu, The
Zamindar of Kirlampudi, The
Zamindar of Mirzapuram, The

I.—SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

The following Members made the prescribed oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown and took their seats:

Mr. F. J. STANES.

Mr. C. E. JONES, I.C.S.

M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM Avargal.

Mr. P. PEDDI RAJU.

II.—ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR then addressed the Council as follows:—

" Mr. President and hon. Members of the Legislative Council,—Since the last meeting of the Council the three Committees which visited this country at the beginning of the year have issued their reports, but the only one to which I intend to refer at the moment is that of the Franchise Committee. I am glad to say that it accepted in the main with slight alterations the proposals put forward by this Government. Those proposals, though perhaps not going so far as some people may have wished, will greatly extend the franchise in this Presidency and the Franchise Committee described them as a well thought-out and balanced scheme. For this we are very greatly indebted to the Chairman and Members of the Provincial Franchise Committee, to whom I once again offer the best thanks of the Government for their careful consideration of the difficult problem which confronted them.

" We have also had the statement of the Secretary of State on the procedure which His Majesty's Government propose to adopt in order to expedite the passage into law of the Bill which will confer further reforms on this country and I regret very much that in one important

2nd August 1932]

particular this proposal has caused dissatisfaction. In this connexion I may give the reasons why I have disallowed a resolution which it was proposed to move in this Council to the effect that the procedure outlined by the Secretary of State is not acceptable to Indian opinion. I have done so because in my opinion it is not primarily the concern of this Government but of His Majesty's Government and of the Government of India, who have been clearly informed by responsible leaders that the new procedure is not acceptable to them. I naturally therefore do not intend to discuss it myself, but I must own that I have been greatly influenced in my decision by the opinion that I hold very strongly that, once it has been made clear—as it has been—that the proposal does not meet with favour, the less said the better at this particular juncture when all efforts are being directed, and I hope will be successfully directed, towards finding some way out of the present difficulty. I do not think, however, that I shall be transgressing if I say that I am quite sure we are all agreed in hoping that it will be possible to find a solution which will satisfy Indian opinion and which will at the same time secure the object aimed at by His Majesty's Government, viz., to expedite the passing of the Bill which will usher in a new era in this country. If I may be allowed to make a personal reference, I am particularly anxious that this should be so, as ever since I entered on my present office I have always cherished the hope that it might be my privilege to inaugurate the reforms here and see them working satisfactorily in this Presidency, where at any rate I am confident they will be operated for the good of the Presidency and of its inhabitants.

" The ordinances which have been in force since the beginning of this year were due to expire early last month, and we have considered it necessary to renew some of them. My Government and I would willingly and gladly have let them lapse if we had felt we could do so with safety. But, so long as a certain section of the people persist in carrying on the civil disobedience movement with all its senseless futility, we could not hold ourselves justified in not retaining the ordinances. It is not that they have been extensively used in this Presidency—the figures of convictions under them show they have not—and they are only aimed at those who are determined to create such a situation as would be the worst possible condition under which the new reforms would start. I must point out that, however far-reaching the new reforms may be, they would be seriously handicapped from their very inception if the idea were to get abroad that law and order need not be respected, and my Government and I are determined that we will not leave to the future responsible Government of this Presidency a legacy to the effect that a small minority of the people can with impunity defy the Government of the day, which defiance would, if successful, speedily lead to a condition of chaos and of anarchy.

" I regret to have to say that in parts of the Bellary district a difficult situation has arisen owing to the failure of the monsoon last year in that district. So far the rainfall has been promising this year and meantime steps are being taken to deal with the situation which will I trust be effective in preventing any very great measure of distress.

"The monsoon this year was late, but reports from the districts show that so far it has not been unfavourable; and, though one cannot yet take a very rosy view of the general economic situation, I believe prices have been steady and it is possible to take at any rate a less pessimistic, though still far from optimistic, view of the prospects than would have been possible some weeks ago. The general desire displayed at Lausanne to come to some agreement on the subject of war debts and reparations must have a good effect on the world's economic conditions, and I trust that India will receive a full share of any improvement that may take place.

"Hon. Members are doubtless aware that a committee met early this year to discuss the question of the advisability of the formation of a separate province of Orissa and whether in such a case certain portions of Madras should be transferred to the new province. That committee has now made certain recommendations, and an opportunity will be given to hon. Members to express their opinions on the reasonableness or otherwise of those recommendations. The Government trust that hon. Members will give them the benefit of their advice on this subject, which may have far-reaching consequences, so as to enable them, when making representations as they will have to do on this question, not only to give their own view of the advisability of the proposed transfer but also to give the considered opinion of the Madras Legislative Council.

"There is one question to which I desire to refer although it is for the moment, and will probably for some years to come, be merely of academic interest. But it seems to me to be a question that must ultimately arise and will then be of great importance, and I therefore mention it to you now for your consideration.

"There are, as you know, two principal methods by which a parliamentary majority may be formed—the Party system and the Group system. The former prevails in Great Britain and in America, and the latter is predominant in France and to a lesser extent in Germany. The main difference, as I see it, between the two systems is that in the Party system the leader—so long as he is the leader—has the right to expect unswerving loyalty and support from his party; in the Group system the leader has to satisfy the various groups that compose the party in order to enlist their support. It would appear then theoretically that the former system ensures a more stable government, and I believe I am correct in saying that it is so in actual practice. The question that I now put before you is whether the Party or the Group system will ultimately prevail in this Presidency. As the people of the Presidency get more political consciousness, will political questions cut across caste and creed, or, will caste and creed predominate over political questions? That is a question that I am of course utterly incompetent to answer, and I venture to think that you, Gentlemen, also would not care to prophesy what the future may bring forth in this connexion. But it is a question that is likely to be fraught with such far-reaching consequences for the Presidency when it does arise that I make no apology for bringing it to your notice now—academic though I have already said

2nd August 1932]

it may be at the moment. Whatever may be the result, I hope and believe that this Council will always bear in mind that the Members are not in the Council for their own advancement but are returned to serve the interests of those they represent. So long as that is the standard that Legislative Councillors put before themselves, I have no fear but that Madras will continue to show to the rest of India how provincial autonomy should and can be carried out."

III.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Law and Order—General

Alleged beating of three picketers under the orders of the Circle Inspector of Police, Mangalore.

* 1 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: With reference to question No. 1117, answered on 24th March 1932, regarding three picketers beaten by the Mangalore Police on 10th February 1932 for picketing Messrs. R. B. Vasant & Co., will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state— 11-15 a.m.

(*a*) whether the further report called for as to why it was necessary to inflict so many blows has been received by the Government; if so, whether the hon. the Home Member will be pleased to place on the table a copy of the first as well as the further report;

(*b*) whether the crowd that assembled to watch the beating was an unlawful assembly and why it was ordered to disperse;

(*c*) after the crowd showed disposition to disperse as stated in the answer why the picketers were beaten and that so severely; and

(*d*) what action the Government have taken or propose to take against the officers that have used such excessive force?

A.—(*a*) The report has been received. Both this and the previous report are confidential; so it is not proposed to place them on the table of the House, but the required information is given below.

(*b*) The unlawful assembly consisted of the picketers and volunteers prepared to assist them who failed to disperse after being warned.

(*c*) A section of the crowd took up a defiant attitude even after being warned to disperse. They were therefore dispersed with light canes. Some members of the unlawful assembly sustained injuries, but none of the injuries was serious. The attitude of the section of the crowd which refused to disperse was such that considerable force had to be used.

(*d*) Instructions have already been issued that force should not be used in excess of the requirements of the situation. It is for the officer on the spot to decide what amount of force is necessary to effect dispersal. The need for discretion in the use of force has been impressed on all officers.